
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM,
TO SUBMIT A REPORT DETERMINING A LIVING WAGE STANDARD FOR
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS LIVING IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, "living wage" is defined as a wage sufficient to
2 provide the necessities and comforts essential to an acceptable
3 standard of living; and

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5 WHEREAS, agricultural workers employed in the State earn
6 wages less than other states and their wages are below living
7 wage standards; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to the Massachusetts Institute of
10 Technology, an hourly wage of \$15.73 is considered livable in
11 the State of Hawaii; and

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13 WHEREAS, the shortage of agricultural workers has posed a
14 significant challenge to Governor David Ige's Sustainable Hawai'i
15 Initiative, which plans on doubling local food production by
16 2020 and additionally, in the long term, to locally produce
17 twenty percent of food by 2050 under the 2050 Sustainability
18 Plan; and

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20 WHEREAS, increasing the wages earned by agricultural
21 workers will incentivize individuals to pursue an occupation in
22 the agricultural workforce; and

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24 WHEREAS, competitive wages in the agriculture sector will
25 contribute in the retention of skilled individuals employed in
26 the agricultural workforce; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
29 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
30 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in collaboration
31 with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Business,



1 Economic Development, and Tourism, is requested to submit to the
2 Legislature a report determining a living wage standard for
3 agricultural workers living in the State; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include, but not be
6 limited to, the following:
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- 8 (1) A breakdown of the average living wage for each
9 county;
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11 (2) The living wage for each county adjusted for employer-
12 provided housing, health insurance, transportation,
13 and meals, as applicable;
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15 (3) A breakdown of the average living expenses for an
16 agricultural worker living in each county;
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18 (4) The current median wage earned by agricultural workers
19 in the State;
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21 (5) Annual data of local food production in the State
22 since 2000; and
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24 (6) Annual data of agricultural workers employed in the
25 State since 2000; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
28 Industrial Relations, in collaboration with the Department of
29 Agriculture and Department of Business, Economic Development,
30 and Tourism, is requested to submit the report to the
31 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
32 the Regular Session of 2020; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Labor and
36 Industrial Relations; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
37 and Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.
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